

ELIZABETH ROLEY CRUICKSHANK 1895-1989

Contributed by MARGARET BELCHER, Box 7, Dilke, Saskatchewan. S0G 1C0

There was no one of her generation in either the Regina Natural History Society or the Saskatchewan Natural History Society who did not know Elizabeth Cruickshank. In addition, an extended group of nature lovers knew Mrs. Cruickshank from her regular column "Nature Notes" in the Regina *Leader-Post*.

Her natural history friends knew Betty Cruickshank primarily as a lover of the outdoors and of all living creatures. However, her contributions to her community were so varied and impressive that it seems appropriate to quote the tribute paid her when the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred on her, at the May 1980 Convocation of the University of Regina [Editor's note: this article also appeared in the September 1980 *Blue Jay*]:

In January 1916, a vibrant young teacher from New Brunswick arrived in Regina. Facing our proverbial 50-below-zero weather in a suit and button boots, Elizabeth Keirstead did not think she would like Saskatchewan. Yet she stayed to teach in the city, married W. K. Cruickshank of Andrews and Cruickshank, analytical chemists, and in 1980 (64 years later) celebrates Saskatchewan with us at this Convocation.

Very many of you in this audience know Elizabeth Cruickshank as "Liz Roley" of the Regina *Leader-Post*. Her "Nature Notes" have appeared

weekly for 25 years, and a selection of them was published in book form (in 1976) under the title *A Second Look*. For a number of years Mrs. Cruickshank also wrote nature scripts for the CBC's school broadcasts and spoke to hundreds of visitors to the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History, where she manned the information desk and the Blue Jay Bookshop. Always, young people have sought her out and have been stimulated by her enthusiasm. She has been an active member and executive officer of both the Regina and Saskatchewan Natural History Societies, and is now Honorary President of the latter. In 1968, she received the provincial society's Conservation Award.

In all her activities as a naturalist, Elizabeth Cruickshank's mission has been to inculcate the habit of "a second look", to teach us

*To see a world in a grain of sand,
And a heaven in a wild flower.*

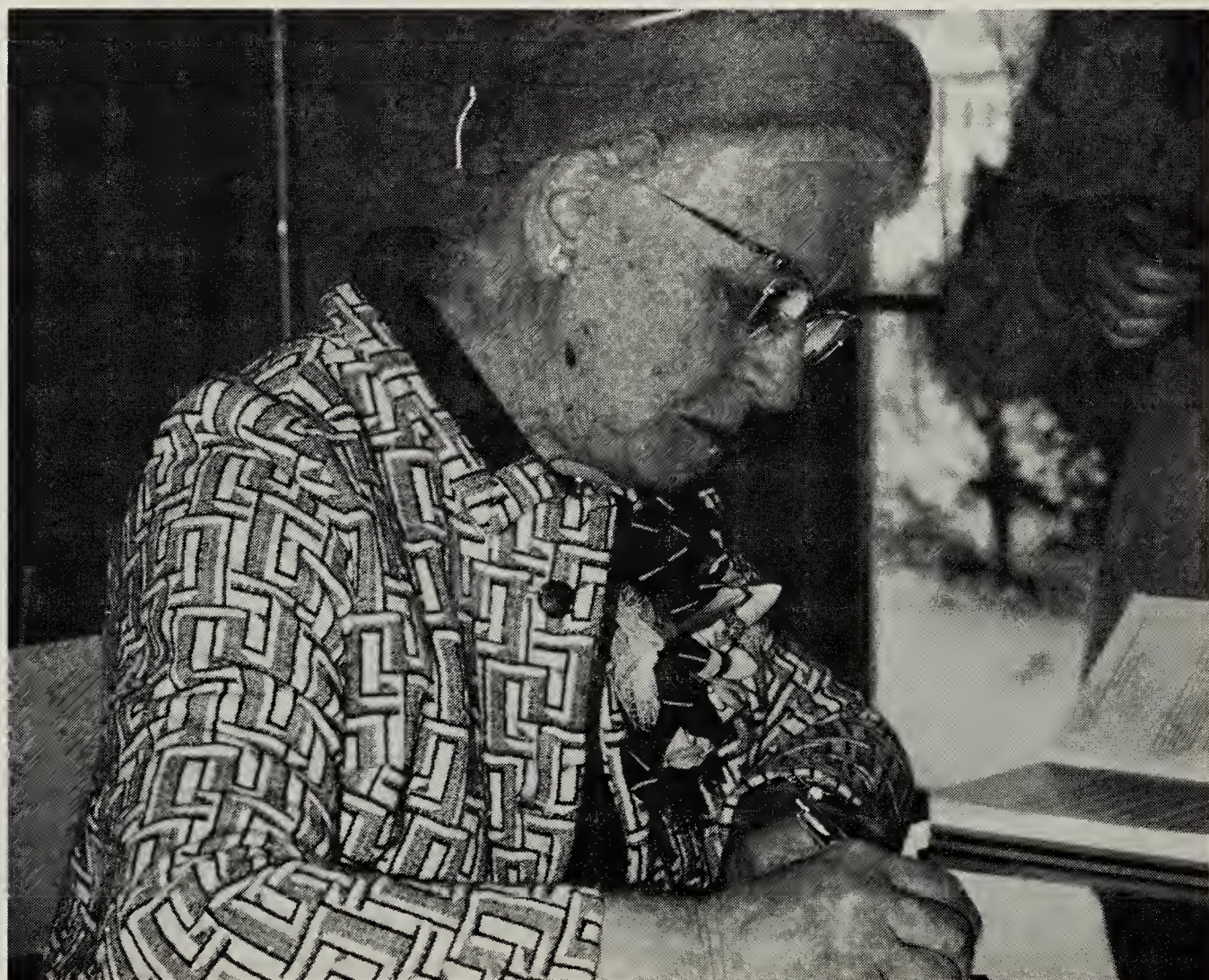
Many and impressive are the contributions that Elizabeth Cruickshank has made to the "quality of life" in this city and the province. Particularly in the depressed years of the 1930s and during the Second World War, her warm and courageous acts of service rallied the spirits of a beleaguered society. She was a member of the Regina Welfare Bureau and the Regina

Relief Board, and used her free time to run a sewing room where women made quilts and clothes for people on relief. She was President of the Regina Council of Women (which in 1975 made her a life member), and Vice-President of the Community Chest. She served on the executive of the Children's Aid Society and worked with cases before the juvenile courts. She organized the Grace Haven Auxiliary to the Salvation Army, and later served on a C.N.I.B. committee and on the Saskatchewan Social Services Council.

During the war years, Elizabeth Cruickshank was chairman of women's activities for the Saskatchewan section of the national War Finance Committee. She organized more than 400 women's committees, travelling throughout Saskatchewan. On the Depend-

ents' Board of Trustees, she dealt with problems faced by wives of service men overseas. As President of the Provincial Council of Women, she was the one woman member of the Reconstruction Council chaired by Dean Cronkite advising the government on the rehabilitation of returned men. For this extensive *volunteer* war work, she was awarded the Order of the British Empire.

Elizabeth Cruickshank is still today a leader in her church, and a popular guest speaker. She is a charter member of the Regina branch of the Canadian Women's Press Club (now the Media Club), and was one of 12 journalists selected to receive the 1967 Centennial Medal. The granting of an honorary degree is a traditional University ceremony honouring such distinguished citizenship.



Elizabeth Roley Cruickshank signing her book, *A Second Look*

Lorne Scott